

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT SANTIAGO 4538 ACTION SECSTATE INFO DOD DIA
USCINCSO PARIS 24 SEPT

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI PINS PINT MILI

SUBJ: WINS AND LOSSES ABROAD, "POLITICAL SILENCE" AT HOME

REF: SANTIAGO 4516

1. SUMMARY. TWENTY-ONE COUNTRIES RECOGNIZE THE NEW GOVERNMENT, WHILE FOUR BLOC NATIONS BREAK RELATIONS. JUNTA CALLS FOR "POLITICAL SILENCE" TO HEAL HATRED, INDICATES SOME ECONOMIC POLICY AND GETS ON WITH CONSOLIDATION OF CONTROL. END SUMMARY.

2. THE JUNTA NOW CLAIMS RECOGNITION BY 21 COUNTRIES, WITH THE ADDITION OF THE UK, FRG, MEXICO, VENEZUELA, AND THE SOVEREIGN AND MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA. THE INTERNATIONAL POSITION OF CHILE CHANGES RADICALLY HOWEVER WITH THE USSR, GDR AND BULGARIA BREAKING RELATIONS TO JOIN CUBA AND NORTH KOREA ON THE LIST OF FORMER FRIENDS. THE FIRST CONTINGENT OF RUSSIANS LEFT SEPT 23 BY

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AEROFLOT PLANE. US NON-RECOGNITION IS CONSPICUOUSLY NOT RPT NOT BEING DISCUSSED IN THE PRESS, QUITE POSSIBLY BY RULING OF THE CENSORS. THE GENERAL PUBLIC OPINION AMONG OUR CONTACTS SEEMS TO BE THAT THE US HAS SOME UNDERSTANDABLE MINOR PROBLEMS WITH QUICK

RECOGNITION BUT THAT AFTER A DECENT INTERVAL US RECOGNITION WILL COME AND WITH IT A RETURN OF THE VARIOUS FLOWS OF AID AND INVESTMENT. JUNTA

MEMBER AND FACH CINC GENERAL LEIGH IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE SEPT 22 IS REPORTED TO HAVE EXPRESSED HOPE FOR "OPTIMUM" RELATIONS WITH THE US AND TO HAVE NOTED THE ADMIRATION OF THE JUNTA FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WHO HAVE ATTAINED NOTABLE SUCCESS AND PROGRESS UNDER THEIR SYSTEM. BUT HE ADDED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW IF IT WOULD BE A GOOD SYSTEM FOR CHILEANS.

3. MININTERIOR GENERAL BONILLA, IN YET ANOTHER PRESS CONFERENCE, SAID THAT THERE WILL BE A "POLITICAL SILENCE" WHILE THE WOUNDS OF "HATRED" IN CHILE ARE HEALED. THE GENERAL PUT HIS WORDS INTO ACTION BY TOURS OF POOR SECTIONS (POBLACIONES) OF THE CITH TO EXAMINE PROBLEMS AND PROMISE HELP. HE WAS HEAVILY GUARDED BY SOLDIERS AND TANKS. THE POLITICAL SILENCE WAS DISTRUBED MILDLY BY PDC PRESIDENT PATRICIO AYLWIN, WHO WAS REPORTED IN THE SETP 23 PRESS TO HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT WHILE THE PDC WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE GOVERNMENT, IT WOULD MAKE AVAILABLE ITS "TECHNICIANS" TO ASSIST WHERE INVITED. AYLWIN HOPED THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT WOULD REMAIN (BY IMPLICATION, ONLY) FOR THE TIME NECESSARY TO RECONSTRUCT THE COUNTRY. AYLWIN AND OTHER PDC LEADERS REPORTEDLY WILL GO ABROAD SOON TO VISIT VARIOUS COUNTRIES WITH "EXPLANATIONS" OF THE COUP, ESPECIALY TO OTHER CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS.

4. GENERAL ECONOMIC POLICY REMAINS TO BE ANNOUNCED BUT HINTS ARE GIVEN. THE JUNTA ANNOUNCED SEPT 22 THAT TITLES WILL BE GIVEN TO FARMERS ("CAMPESESINOS") ON LEGALLY EXPROPRIATED LAND AND TO THOSE IN AGRARIAN REFORM CENTERS, THUS TURNING AWAY FROM THE UP GOVT'S RELUCTANCT TO AWARD INDIVIDUAL TITLES (SEPTTEL).

5. UNDER SECRETARY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS CARVALLO WAS QUOTED IN THE SEPT 22 PRESS TO HAVE SAID THAT CHILE HOPES FOR A "POSTPONEMENT" OF THE OCTOBER PARIS CLUB CREDITORS MEETING, WHILE THE NEW GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS MATTERS. HE EXPECTED A POSITIVE REACTION TO THIS REQUEST BECAUSE OF THE "GOOD WILL" TOWARD CHILE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CREDITOR GROUP.

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6. ENTHUSIASM FOR THE NEW ERA OF "RECONSTRUCTION" WAS EXPLOITED BY DECLARING SATURDAY SEPT 22 A REGULAR WORK DAY, AND MEMBERS OF THE JUNTA AND THEIR WIVES OPENED A VOLUNTARY FUND TO ASSIST RECOVERY WITH DONATION OF MONEY AND JEWELRY. SANTIAGO IS NOTABLY CLEANER AS POLITICAL GRAFFITI DISAPPEAR RAPIDLY FROM THE WALLS, AND ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES BECOME EASIER TO OBTAIN EACH DAY.

7. SECURITY AND THE CONSOLIDATION OF CONTROL CONTINUE TO INTRUDE HEAVILY DESPITE THE "RETURN TO NORMALCY." PROVOKED BY A FIRE-FIGHT LATE ON SATURDAY SEPT 22, THE MILITARY CORDONED OFF THE LARGE SAN BORJA DEVELOPMENT OF APARTMENT TOWERS JUST EAST OF DOWNTOWN SANTIAGO EARLY SUNDAY AND CONDUCTED A LARGE-SCALE 16-HOUR SEARCH

FOR EXTREMISTS, WEAPONS, AND PROPAGANDA. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, MANY WERE ARRESTED AND MUCH MARXIST PROPAGANDA FOUND (AND PUBLICALLY BURNED), AS WAS RADIO TRANSMITTING EQUIPMENT, BUT APPARENTLY NO SIGNIFICANT WEAPONS CACHES WERE DISCOVERED. OCCASIONAL SHOTS ARE STILL HEARD AROUND SANTIAGO DURING THE NIGHT CURFEW HOURS.

8. PRISONERS IN THE NATIONAL STADIUM WERE DISPLAYED TO THE PRESS AND ICRC REPS ON SEPT 22. INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS WERE NOT PERMITTED, BUT PRISONERS SHOUTED OUT COMPLAINING ABOUT THE SLOWNESS OF THE PROCESSING AND INTERROGATIONS WHICH APPARENTLY ARE RESULTING IN ONLY SMALL NUMBERS OF ADDITIONAL RELEASES EACH DAY. AUTHORITIES AT THE STADIUM MENTIONED A MAXIMUM FIGURE OF 4,000 PRISONERS, WHILE GENERAL LEIGH IN HIS REMARKS TO THE PRESS HAD MENTIONED UP TO 7,000. LEIGH'S FIGURE REPORTEDLY INCLUDES THE FLUCTUATING TOTALS OF PERSONS ROUNDED UP EACH NIGHT FOR CURFEW VIOLATIONS. THE NAMES OF 27 HIGH UP FIGURES BEING HELD ON DAWSON ISLAND IN THE MAGELLAND STRAITS WERE RELEASED (SEPTEL).

9. NUMBERS OF CASUALTIES FROM THE COUP REMAIN A MATTER OF DISPUTE. MININTERIOR BONILLA HAS BEEN QUOTED IN THE PRESS AS SAYING THAT ABOUT 100 CIVILIANS DIED AND 31 MILITARY AND POLICE. SPECULATION AND PRIVATE REFLECTIONS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES UP THE NUMBERS OF DEAD INTO THE THOUSANDS.

10. THE PRESS CONTINUES TO REVEAL THE ALLEGED PREPARATIONS OF THE LEFT FOR A COUP WHICH WOULD HAVE TAKEN PLACE DURING THE PERIOD OF THE NATIONAL HOLIDAYS, OR ABOUT SEPT 17-19. GEN LEIGH SAID SEPT 22
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THAT THE MILITARY COUP DECISION WAS TAKEN SEPT 9 BECAUSE OF THIS INFORMATION. PLANS FOR ATTACKS ON MILITARY UNITS ARE BEING "DISCOVERED," NEW STORES OF EXPLOSIVES AND ARMS ARE UNCOVERED EACH DAY, AND PRIVATE SOURCES REPORT TO US THAT THEY HAVE SEEN PLANS FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF LEADERS OF SUCH DIVERSE GROUPS AS JOURNALISTS AND DOCTORS. REPORTS BY CLAIMED EYE-WITNESSES ARE CIRCULATING CONCERNING THE DISCOVERY OF PORNOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHS OF HIGH UP FIGURES INCLUDING ALLENDED INVOLVED IN HOMOSEXUAL AND HETEROSEXUAL ACTS. THE MILITARY HAVE CAREFULLY TURNED AWAY QUESTIONS ON THIS SPECIFIC SUBJECT, BUT FULL PLAY IS BEING GIVEN BY THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND THE PRESS TO THE EVIDENCE OF PLANS FOR VIOLENCE AND THE FINANCIAL CORRUPTION OF THE DEPOSED REGIME.

11. CHILE'S GREAT NOBEL PRIZE POET PABLO NERUDA DIED IN A SANTIAGO HOSPITAL SEPT 23, MOURNED BY THE PRESS AND GENERALLY HONORED DESPITE HIS PRO-MARXIST SENTIMENTS.
THOMPSON UNQUOTE RUSH

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